

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Response to the amendment

The amendment filed on Jan 14, 2008 has been acknowledged. Claims 7, 9, 10 have been amended. New claim 27 has been added. Claims 1-6, 8, 11-26 have been canceled. Claims 7, 9, 10 and 27 are pending.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robyn Adams on March 4, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 10 and 27.

Claims 7 and 9 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have established a method for purifying GHS-R expressing cells by using peptide zsig33 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 to bind a cell expressing the Growth Hormone Secretary Receptor (GHS-R) set forth with SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the peptide should contain the receptor binding range of amino acid residues 24-37 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and receptor must contain the peptide binding domain of residues 41-326 of SEQ ID NO: 5. No prior art teaches and suggests that the GHS-R is the receptor for peptide zsig 33. The complex formation between the peptide and receptor can be used for identification and purification of the GSH-R expressing cells.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao Qun Li whose telephone number is 571-272-0904. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bao Qun Li/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1648

/Bruce Campell/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1648